ROBERT KIRKMAN LORENZO DE FELICI MATHEUS LOPES

VOID RIVALS

image

#06

ENERGON UNIVERSE

ROBERT KIRKMAN
/WRITER/

LORENZO DE FELICI
/ARTIST/

MATHEUS LOPES
/COLORIST/

RUS WOOTON
/LETTERER/

LORENZO DE FELICI
CHRISTIAN WARD
EJIKURE
KAREN S DARBOE
TONI INFANTE
/COVERS/

SEAN MACKIEWICZ
& JONATHAN MANNING
/EDITORS/

ANDRES JUAREZ
/LOGO & PUBLICATION DESIGN/

/VOID RIVALS CREATED BY/
ROBERT KIRKMAN &
LORENZO DE FELICI

JILLIAN CRAB
/PRODUCTION/

SPECIAL THANKS TO HASBRO'S MICHAEL KELLY, ED LANE, LINDA LEE & TAYLA REO FOR THEIR INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE.

Licensed by:

FOR SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT: ROBERT KIRKMAN *CHAIRMAN* | DAVID ALPERT *CEO* | SEAN MACKIEWICZ *SVP, PUBLISHER* | ANDRES JUAREZ *CREATIVE DIRECTOR, EDITORIAL* | ARUNE SINGH *VP, BRAND, EDITORIAL* | SHANNON MEEHAN *SENIOR PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER* | ALEX ANTONE *EDITORIAL DIRECTOR* | AMANDA LAFRANCO *EDITOR* | JONATHAN MANNING *EDITOR* | JILLIAN CRAB *GRAPHIC DESIGNER* | ASHBY FLORENCE *PRODUCTION ARTIST* | RICHARD MERCADO *PRODUCTION ARTIST* | MORGAN PERRY *BRAND MANAGER, EDITORIAL* | SARAH CLEMENTS *BRAND COORDINATOR, EDITORIAL* | NIA PHILLIPS *PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST* | DAN PETERSEN *SR. DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS & EVENTS* | Foreign Rights & Licensing Inquiries: contact@skybound.com | SKYBOUND.COM

FOR IMAGE COMICS, INC: ROBERT KIRKMAN *CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER* | ERIK LARSEN *CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER* | TODD MCFARLANE *PRESIDENT* | MARC SILVESTRI *CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER* | JIM VALENTINO *VICE PRESIDENT* | ERIC STEPHENSON *PUBLISHER / CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER* | NICOLE LAPALME *VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE* | LEANNA CAUNTER *ACCOUNTING ANALYST* | SUE KORPELA *ACCOUNTING & HR MANAGER* | MATT PARKINSON *VICE PRESIDENT OF SALES & PUBLISHING PLANNING* | LORELEI BUNJES *VICE PRESIDENT OF DIGITAL STRATEGY* | DIRK WOOD *DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL SALES & LICENSING* | RYAN BREWER *INTERNATIONAL SALES & LICENSING MANAGER* | ALEX COX *DIRECTOR OF DIRECT MARKET SALES* | CHLOE RAMOS *BOOK MARKET & LIBRARY SALES MANAGER* | EMILIO BAUTISTA *DIGITAL SALES COORDINATOR* | JON SCHLAFFMAN *SPECIALTY SALES COORDINATOR* | KAT SALAZAR *VICE PRESIDENT OF PR & MARKETING* | DEANNA PHELPS *MARKETING DESIGN MANAGER* | DREW FITZGERALD *MARKETING CONTENT ASSOCIATE* | HEATHER DOORNINK *VICE PRESIDENT OF PRODUCTION* | DREW GILL *ART DIRECTOR* | HILARY DILORETO *PRINT MANAGER* | TRICIA RAMOS *TRAFFIC MANAGER* | MELISSA GIFFORD *CONTENT MANAGER* | ERIKA SCHNATZ *SENIOR PRODUCTION ARTIST* | WESLEY GRIFFITH *PRODUCTION ARTIST* | IMAGECOMICS.COM

VOID RIVALS #6. NOVEMBER 2023. PUBLISHED BY IMAGE COMICS, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION:PO BOX 14457, PORTLAND, OR 97293. VOID RIVALS AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS ARE TRADEMARKS OF HASBRO AND ARE USED WITH PERMISSION. © 2023 HASBRO. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. LICENSED BY HASBRO. IMAGE COMICS® AND ITS LOGOS ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS AND COPYRIGHTS OF IMAGE COMICS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. NO PART OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS (EXCEPT FOR SHORT EXCERPTS FOR REVIEW PURPOSES) WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN PERMISSION OF IMAGE COMICS, INC. ALL NAMES, CHARACTERS, EVENTS AND LOCALES IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE ENTIRELY FICTIONAL. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL PERSONS (LIVING OR DEAD), EVENTS OR PLACES, WITHOUT SATIRIC INTENT, IS COINCIDENTAL. DIGITAL EDITION.

ZERTA, GIVE ME STRENGTH TO DO WHAT IS NEEDED OF ME.

SHUNK

UM...

KANELA?!

PUT THIS ARMOR ON.

HURRY!

SO YOU'RE FREEING ME?

ALWAYS TOOK YOU FOR LOYAL, MAYBE EVEN A FUTURE PREMIER...

INTERESTING.

I CAN'T CLOSE THE DOOR.

STOP WASTING TIME AND HURRY BEFORE SOMEONE SEES.

WHAT USE COULD YOU HAVE FOR ME...

DON'T MAKE ME SAY IT AGAIN.

ALMOST READY.

TWO ***BLAST TROOPERS*** ARE JUST TAKING A STROLL DOWN THE DETENTION CENTER CORRIDOR? IS THAT WHAT PEOPLE ARE MEANT TO BELIEVE?

TELL ME WE'RE NOT JUST WALKING OUT OF HERE?

I'VE GOT A ***BLASTWING*** WAITING FOR US IN HANGAR DELTA. CLEARED FOR DEPARTURE. WE JUST HAVE TO GET THERE.

WALK WITH PURPOSE. IF WE HAVE TO... KILL ANYONE WHO INTERFERES WITH OUR ESCAPE.

I'M SURE ***YOU*** WON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ***THAT.***

THERE IT IS...

A SHIP OF BOTH AGORRIAN AND ZERTONIAN ORIGIN. THEY APPARENTLY DISMANTLED THEIR TWO DAMAGED SHIPS AND USED THE PARTS TO BUILD THIS.

SO... THAT'S MY END OF THE BARGAIN... SO...

...I'M FREE TO GO...

...RIGHT?

FASCINATING...

ZERTONIAN...

SO SHE SUCCEEDED, ALL THOSE EONS AGO.

ZERTONIA IS **REAL.**

SHALL I HAVE IT TRANSPORTED TO THE LABORATORY, YOUR HONOR?

IMMEDITATELY. WE MUST SCAN THESE ALLOYS FOR ANY TRACE THAT COULD LEAD US TO ZERTONIA.

THIS IS BUT AN ECHO FROM OUR DEEP PAST. A MEMORY OF A **REBELLIOUS CHILD.** SOMETHING THAT HAS PLAGUED US QUINTESSONS FAR TOO MANY TIMES.

STILL... THIS IS A QUEST THAT COULD RESULT IN REVELATIONS THAT WOULD SHOCK OUR CIVILIZATION TO ITS CORE.

THERE IS MUCH TO CONSIDER...

YOU DID THIS?

EH... YOU WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME FOR ME.

I WOULD NOT.

WELL, NOW THAT I'VE DONE THIS--YOU WILL IF THERE'S A NEXT TIME.

I PROBABLY WON'T.

COULDN'T YOU JUST *LIE?!*

I TRIED TO WARN YOU. THIS ONE IS ***NOT*** TO BE TRUSTED.

SHE'S OKAY ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW HER.

I'VE KNOWN HER FOR FIVE YEARS.

...

WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. WE'VE LIVED UP TO OUR END OF THE BARGAIN, FREEING YOU... AND YOUR... ENEMY. NOW HERE'S WHAT YOU'RE DOING FOR US.

WE HAVE COUNTERPARTS IN AGORRIA... BUT WE'VE LOST CONTACT. WE NEED YOU TO DELIVER A DATA PACKET TO OUR CONTACT THERE. THEY CAN USE IT TO REESTABLISH A SECURE LINK.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAFELY GET TO AGORRIA AND FIND OUR CONTACT. FEEL FREE TO BRING SOLILA IF YOU LIKE. SHE'S NO USE TO US.

WELL? YOU UP FOR THAT?

I'M AS GOOD AS DEAD IF I STAY HERE.

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

SKRAMASH

BOTH OF THEM?!

GONE?!!

GET ME THE MINISTER OF ARMS--*NOW!* FILL THE STREETS!

WE HAVE TO *FIND THEM!*

I SCOUTED THIS WHOLE AREA TODAY. IT'S IN THE CLEAR, MA'AM.

THANKS, ULTUM.

KEEP YOUR HEAD COVERED. NO ONE NEEDS TO SEE YOUR GEM. THAT'LL CAUSE TOO MANY QUESTIONS.

BAD ENOUGH YOU'LL BE HOPING PEOPLE DON'T NOTICE *THAT THING.*

SORRY, TOO RISKY TO GO WITHOUT.

I AGREE.

YOU'VE GOT A BLASTWING PREPPED AND CLEARED FOR LAUNCH? *HOW?*

I WON'T BE REVEALING A *THING* TO YOU.

JUST KNOW THAT OUR REACH IS *FAR.* THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR CAUSE IS *JUST.*

THAT'S THE *PERFECT* THING TO SATIATE THE STARVING MOUTHS OF ZERTONIA...

...*A JUST CAUSE.*

...

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.

COME ON.

HURRY.

WE HAVE TO KEEP MOVING.

...

THAT IS WHAT I'M FIGHTING TO STOP. EVERY TIME I TURNED ON YOU... THAT IS ***WHY.***

DON'T LINGER.

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THAT IN AG--

DON'T SAY IT. PEOPLE WILL HEAR. KEEP MOVING.

ALMOST THERE.

WE HAVE CLEARANCE TO PASS HERE.

STAY CLOSE. MOVE QUICKLY.

HALT!
NOBODY MOVE!
HOW?!
I'M SORRY, MA'AM. THEY SAID THEY WOULD FIND MY MOM IF I HELPED THEM.
I JUST MISS HER SO MUCH.
...
IT'S OKAY, ULTUM.
I UNDERSTAND.

I WILL DELIVER THE DATA PACKET TO THE AGORRIANS.

JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET CAUGHT.

WHAT?

SKRAKKSH

WRAMM

THINK YOU CAN DRIVE THAT?!

I WISH.

I CAN ACTIVATE IT. YOU STEER.

YOU'RE STEERING, NOT ME!

VAP

VAP

VAP

MORE ACCELERATION PLEASE!

HOLD ON--WAIT! WAIT!

SHAK

NOW!

BOOM BOOM BOOM

SEE! WE MAKE A GREAT TEAM!

KA BOOM

DUMP THE SLIP RIDER. THEY CAN TRACK IT.

HURRY!

AW, MAN...

SHE'S RIGHT. I DETECT MULTIPLE DRONES EN ROUTE.

THE FURTHER NORTH WE GO, THE EASIER IT'LL BE TO MOVE. IT'LL GIVE US TIME TO THINK.

ALL DRONES ARE COMING FROM THE CITY TO THE SOUTH. THE UPPER RING DOES SEEM CLEAR.

YEAH. THAT'S THE MOVE. WE GO ***NORTH.*** THE FURTHER, THE BETTER.

DARKER UP HERE. EASIER FOR US TO HIDE, BUT... MORE DANGEROUS, RIGHT?

RIGHT. MOST RESOURCES GO TO KEEP THE CAPITAL RUNNING. ENERGY IS RATIONED UP HERE.

THE RAIL WON'T GO MUCH FURTHER.

WE GO TO THE END, THEN WE KEEP GOING. I'VE GOT A PLAN.

THE BORDER ZONE? THAT FAR?

YEAH. I ASSUME THAT AREA IS PRETTY QUIET?

THAT AREA IS ***DEAD.*** NO ONE GOES UP THERE... GOOD PLAN. THAT'LL GIVE US TIME TO THINK, PLAN OUR NEXT MOVE.

YEAH...

THERE! THAT'S *THEM!*

OH, NO!

THEY MUST HAVE PUT A SQUADRON UP HERE JUST IN CASE WE WERE CRAZY ENOUGH TO GO THIS FAR NORTH!

SMART!

DRAT!

THE TRAIL UP AHEAD IS COMPLICATED AND MAZE-LIKE, I CAN HELP YOU NAVIGATE IN A WAY THAT WILL PUT DISTANCE BETWEEN--

JUST DO IT!

NORTH!

LEAD US NORTH!

WAIT, WHAT? NOT TOO FAR NORTH, RIGHT?!

YOU'RE NOT... OH, NO...

THERE'S A ***REASON*** THEY WON'T CHASE US HERE!

NO. THIS IS IT. THIS IS HOW WE SURVIVE. ***THIS*** IS HOW WE COMPLETE THE MISSION.

DO YOU TRUST ME?

"YES."

"IT'S OVER, SIRE."

THEY'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD. NO ONE HAS EVER SURVIVED A JOURNEY ACROSS ***THE WASTELAND.***

THEY KNOW THIS IS THE END FOR THEM. SURELY THIS WAS THEIR WAY OF ACCEPTING THEIR FATE.

IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO CONFIRM THIS. TO VENTURE INTO THE WASTELAND IS TO INVITE CERTAIN DEATH.

NO.

WE UNDERESTIMATED THEM, AND THEY ESCAPED. DO NOT FORGET, THESE TWO WERE ALREADY LOST ONCE AND FOUND THEIR WAY ***HERE.***

WE NEED NOT ONE WHO WILL VENTURE INTO THE WASTELAND TO CONFIRM THEIR DEMISE. WE NEED A HUNTER WHO WILL TRACK THEM DOWN TO ***ENSURE*** IT.

AND I KNOW ***ONE*** WHO WILL.

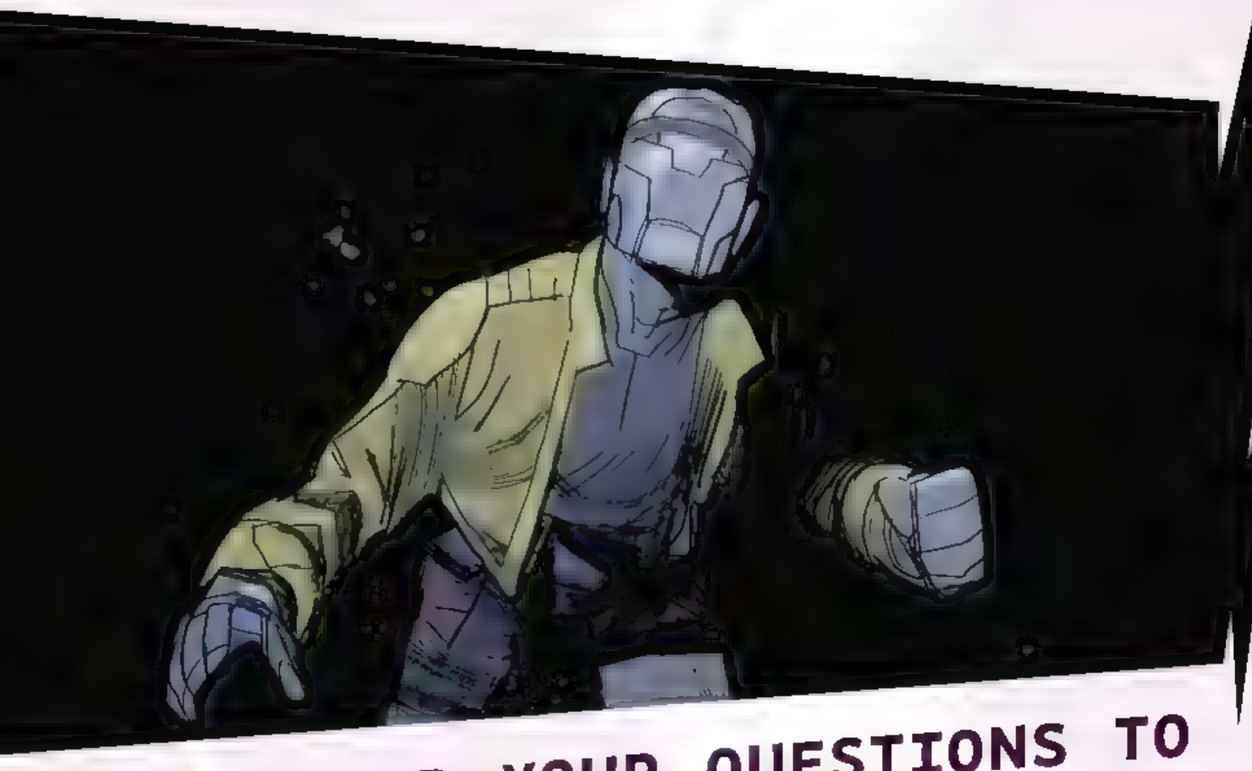
NO. YOU CAN'T MEAN--

NOT ***HIM.***

THERE'S NO CHOICE! WE MUST PREVENT ***UNITY,*** NO MATTER THE COST. THAT IS OUR SACRED CHARGE... TO AVERT THE COMING OF ***GOLIANT.***

ZERTA HELP ME...

...WE MUST REVIVE ***PROXIMUS.***



SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO VOIDRIVALS@SKYBOUND.COM

Howdy, folks! Welcome to the last VOID RIVALS letters column… without a name! That's right, next time we chat, there'll be shiny new name at the top of this page reading… TALK TO THE HANDROID. A huge thank you to all who have written in, and keep it coming! Your enthusiasm for this book and the Energon Universe makes it all worth it!

TALK TO THE HAND! Greatness! Congrats to the winner, Steve J. Begg. Another in a long line of fun letters column titles.

Now let's answer some mail!

PS: Stay tuned after this edition of TALK TO THE HANDROID for a sneak peek at COBRA COMMANDER #1!

• • • • • • • • • • • • •

Hello Skybound!

I am happy to read VOID RIVALS. Since you asked me to ask you questions, I ask you to answer some of them

1. What does an edgewalker do within the Agorra semicircle?
2. Remembering the Nebulons, what are the chances of seeing other old alien races of the Transformers franchise, like Lithone?
3. Can the appearance of Transformers on Earth give rise to human villains, like Meltdown or Headmaster?
4. Is there a chance that cooperation with Hasbro will expand to, theoretically, a game or a series based on the franchises?

I will be watching your work with great curiosity, as well as waiting for more and more news on your projects COBRA-A-A!

- Kirill

1. *You'll just have to keep reading. I will hint that it has something to do with walking near a perceived "edge."*
2. *Very high.*
3. *More a question for the esteemed Daniel Warren Johnson and I assume he'd say... maybe?*
4. *No plans for this. We're all just focused on creating awesome comics.*

• • • • • • • • • • • • •

Dear Void Rivals Team,

The letters page name should be "Void your Vow-els." It works on so many levels

-"Vow-el Voider" #1

Had to include this one (even if we won't be seeing it on the header of the letters page).

I can't pick one that is... gross!! Come on, guys!

• • • • • • • • • • • • •

Hey Robert Kirkman and the Void Rivals Crew! I just picked up Void Rivals #3 from a local comic shop and bought it. It blew me away. I love how the Skuxxoids and Quintessons have been handled in the series so far. Was that giant scorpion robot Scorponok or just a random scorpion robot?

I guess Scorponok looks kind of like that in the Bay movies, but honestly... I promise I won't ever have a character vaguely appear. If that was meant to be Scorponok, it would be massive, green and purple

G1 Scorponok and you'd know it! That was meant to be a random Quintesson animal, similar to the giant squid Hot Rod and Kup fought underwater in Transformers: The Movie.

Needless to say, I have enjoyed Void Rivals. I am a huge fan of Robert Kirkman and have been since reading Ultimate X-Men: Cable & Ultimate X-Men: Apocalypse, and Invincible is one of my all-time favorite comics, so excited for season 2 of the show. I am also a huge fan of Transformers & GI Joe and have been ever since seeing GI Joe Sigma 6 & Transformers Energon on TV. I even saw GI Joe Retaliation in theaters for my birthday freshman year of high school, and I created a piece of Transformers art my junior year of high school for fun that I have framed.

I know from seeing the letters pages for Void Rivals #3 that you've already been asked about Rom & MASK, so I won't ask those questions, I'll just say that I hope that Rom & MASK are going to be part of the Energon Universe because they are cool properties. What I want to know is do you plan on tackling the GI Joe Adventure Team in the Energon Universe? I think Adventure Team would add a fascinating element to the GI Joe world within the Energon Universe. I am also curious about Tiger Force & Python Patrol will those come into play given how Hasbro has pushed them in the GI Joe Classified line? How about Steel Corps of GI Joe? Will the GI Joe Star Brigade appear in Void Rivals or the Energon Universe in general? I know my questions have all been GI Joe related, but that's where a lot of my curiosity has lied lately, looking forward to more of Void Rivals, as well as Transformers, Duke, Cobra Commander, and GI Joe A Real American Hero.

We've got big plans for GI Joe! That said, there are still so many of our favorite characters from the core GI Joe canon that we want to spend time with, and see developed into awesome stories. Of course, as the threat of Cobra grows, so must GI Joe! So just keep reading-you're gonna like what ya see! [Fun fact: the GI Joe Classified toy line is a big inspiration for our series' character designs!]

Sincerely,
Scotty

We can't spoil too much in our letters column, sadly!! But keep reading. I think you'll be very happy.

. . . . . .

Can you believe it? The end of the first full story arc within the Energon Universe?! Well strap in, we're just getting started! We're back with VOID RIVALS #7 in March, but you'll have Optimus Prime, Duke, and Cobra Commander to keep you company in the meantime. In fact, you can get to know Cobra Commander right now! Flip over that next page for a preview of COBRA COMMANDER #1!!!

-Jonathan

Yes! We're taking a little break here to let the other books get started and catch up a little. That way VOID RIVALS won't be so far out front of the other books, and it allows Lorenzo and myself to get a little more ahead of schedule. But don't worry, March is just a few short months away.

Watch Invincible season 2 to tide you over, if you need to! And please, please read TRANSFORMERS, DUKE and COBRA COMMANDER! You're going to want to be all caught up when we come roaring back for our second story arc!

-Robert

THE RISE OF COBRA BEGINS HERE!

COBRA COMMANDER

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON ANDREA MILANA ANNALISA LEONI

Superstar writer **JOSHUA WILLIAMSON** (*Duke*, DC's *Superman*) teams up with artist **ANDREA MILANA** (*Impact Winter: Rook*) to reveal the origins of COBRA in a world impacted by the arrival of Autobots and Decepticons.

ISSUE #1 AVAILABLE JANUARY 17, 2024!

image

Hasbro

WELCOME TO THE ENERGON UNIVERSE

G.I. JOE, TRANSFORMERS, and HASBRO and all related trademarks and logos are trademarks of Hasbro, Inc. ©2023 Hasbro. SKYBOUND and all related images are owned by Skybound, LLC. IMAGE COMICS and all related images are owned by Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

UH, WHAT'LL BE, STRANGER?

I HAVE NEED OF A VEHICLE.

SSSPEAK NOW IF YOU CAN BE OF ASSSISTANCE.

HA! HOW THE HELL YOU GET ALL THE WAY OUT HERE WITHOUT A TRUCK, BUDDY?!

AND WHAT'S WITH THE *LISP?*

SMACK

DANG *CIRCUS* IS IN TOWN, AND NO ONE TOLD US, BOYS.

GOOD LUCK! IT'S COLD OUT THERE!

YOUR VEHICLE WILL DO NICELY.

NOW WHAT THE HECK IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

WHAT YA GOT THERE, WEIRDO?

THAT SOME KIND OF *TOY?*

NO MAN'S LAND

DRUNK?

ZZZRT-TRUK TK TK

AHHHHH

NO MAN'S LAND

DRUNK?

NO MAN'S LAND

HEY, JIMMY, YOU FORGOT TO PAY, DAMMIT.

NO MAN'S LAND

REST STOP AND PUB

DRUNK?

CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D JUST TAKE OFF LIKE THAT.

THAT SONOFA... HIS TRUCK IS GONE...

OH, JESUS...

WHAT...?

FFEEE

EXPLORE THE ENERGON UNIVERSE

ROBERT KIRKMAN'S ALL-NEW **TRANSFORMERS** AND **G.I. JOE** SHARED UNIVERSE CONTINUES EVERY MONTH IN THESE TITLES!

PRE-ORDER UPCOMING RELEASES WITH YOUR LOCAL COMIC SHOP NOW!

Licensed by Hasbro

skybound.com | @skyboundent | @skyboundent

VOID RIVALS, THE TRANSFORMERS, G.I. JOE and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2023 Hasbro. All rights reserved. SKYBOUND and all related images are owned by Skybound, LLC. IMAGE COMICS and all related images are owned by Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

CODENAME: G.I. JOE STARTS HERE!

RATED **T** / TEEN